(f) the manner in which Government proposes to minimize the incidents of child abuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per "Crime in India", an annual publication of National Crime Records Bureau the State-wise data indicating the number of cases reported for crimes committed against children, the cases disposed off by Police and the cases processed/disposed by Courts for the year 2003, 2004 & 2005 is available at the website of National Crime Records Bureau at www.ncrb.nic.in.

(d) to (f) Ministry of Women and Child Development has recently got conducted a National level Study on Child Abuse which was released on 9th April 2007. The study has provided revealing statistics on the extent and magnitude of various forms of child abuse. The study has also thrown up data on variations among different age groups, gender variations, state variations and variations within evidence groups. The finding will help to strengthen the understanding of all stakeholders including families, communities, civil society organizations and the state. The Report of the Study is available on the website of the Ministry at www.wcd.nic.in.

Rehabilitation of victims of violence/atrocities

1464. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to reduce the violence/atrocities on women and children across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to rehabilitate the victims of such violence/atrocities;

(d) whether the guilty have been brought to book, if so, what punishments have been given to them; and

(e) whether any special funds have been created in the centre and States for protecting the affected persons due to these atrocities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Detail is enclosed pertaining to protection of women in statement (*See* below). There are schemes of Short Stay Homes and Swadhar for the shelter, maintenance and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances including women victims of violence in homes/society. The details of the above schemes are available in the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Women and Child Development which have been laid in Parliament and also uploaded on the website of the Ministry (www.wcd.nic.in).

The crimes and violence against children are being addressed by legislations like IPC, Cr. PC, Child Labour Act and Juvenile Justice Act. These Acts are being reviewed from time to time to make them more effective and stringent, MWCD is administratively concerned with Juvenile Justice Act. Recently Rules under JJ Act have been notified with the approval of law Ministry. JJ Act also provides necessary provision for protection and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection.

The Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme called "A Programme for Juvenile Justice" under which financial assistance is available to the State Govts, and UTs for setting up of various types of homes and maintenance of children staying in those homes who are, in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law.

(d) According to the data complied by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, 1,57,829 persons were convicted in the country during the years 2004-06 for various crimes/offences against women under IPC and special laws for women. The punishment in respect of conviction is laid down in the respective legal provisions.

(e) There is no special fund in this Ministry for the purpose.

Statement

Detail regarding steps being taken to reduce violence/atrocities on women and children

Law and order and other criminal matters is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, the direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes against, women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:

* Enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which provides for more effective protection of the Constitutional rights of women, who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family including any unlawful demand for dowry.
* setting up of helplines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme
* support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided
* grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking
* redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women
* organizing legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps
* implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti Project, Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban Programme and Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP)
* review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women
* sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues
* Follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administration to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

* sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women
* vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence
* set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations
* provide institutional support to the victims of violence
* provide counseling to victims of rape
* take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise to trafficking matters
* ensure wider recruitment of women police officers
* train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women
* setting up of Fast Track Courts
* setting up of Family Courts
* appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Revamping ICDS

1465. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to revamp the ICDS with an estimated cost of Rs. 52,000 crore;

(b) if so, the drawbacks found by the Ministry in the existing ICDS and what innovative methods are proposed to be adopted in the proposed new ICDS; and

(c) the details of cash incentives proposed under ICDS to lactating and pregnant mothers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) It is proposed to revise the framework of Implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, the details of which are being worked our.

(c) There is no such proposal under the ICDS Scheme.

Status of women

†1466. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.